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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL <small>(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))</small>	Attorney Docket No.	3425US (97.02947)
	First Inventor or Application Identifier	Jeffrey A. Bull
	Title	SPEAKER APPARATUS & A COMPUTER SYSTEM INCORPORATING SAME
	Express Mail Label No.	EM175209223US

APPLICATION ELEMENTS <small>See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.</small>	ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents Box Patent Application Washington, DC 20231
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1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> * Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17) <small>(Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)</small> 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification [Total Pages <input type="text" value="21"/>] <small>(preferred arrangement set forth below)</small> - Descriptive title of the invention - Cross References to Related Applications - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D - Reference to Microfiche Appendix - Background of the invention - Brief Summary of the invention - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed) - Detailed Description - Claim(s) - Abstract of the Disclosure 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets <input type="text" value="2"/>] 4. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages <input type="text" value="1"/>] a. <input type="checkbox"/> Newly executed (original or copy) b. <input type="checkbox"/> Copy from a prior application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d)) <small>(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)</small> <small>[Note Box 5 below]</small> i. <input type="checkbox"/> <u>DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)</u> Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b). 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Incorporation By Reference (useable if Box 4b is checked) The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered to be part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.	6. <input type="checkbox"/> Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix) 7. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Readable Copy b. <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Copy (identical to computer copy) c. <input type="checkbox"/> Statement verifying identity of above copies
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ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS	
8. <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s)) 9. <input type="checkbox"/> 37 C.F.R. §3.73(b) Statement (when there is an assignee) <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney 10. <input type="checkbox"/> English Translation Document (if applicable) 11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copies of IDS Citations 12. <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Amendment 13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) <small>(Should be specifically itemized)</small> * Small Entity 14. <input type="checkbox"/> Statement(s) filed in prior application, (PTO/SB/09-12) <input type="checkbox"/> Status still proper and desired 15. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed) 16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Unsigned Declaration...</u>	* A new statement is required to be entitled to pay small entity fees, except where one has been filed in a prior application and is being relied upon.

17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment: <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Divisional <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No: _____ Prior application Information: Examiner _____ Group / Art Unit: _____	
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18. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS					
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FEE TRANSMITTAL

Patent fees are subject to annual revision on October 1.
These are the fees effective October 1, 1997.
Small Entity payments must be supported by a small entity statement,
otherwise large entity fees must be paid. See Forms PTO/SB/09-12.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$) 1,866.00

Complete if Known

Application Number
Filing Date June 17, 1998
First Named Inventor Jeffrey A. Bull
Examiner Name
Group / Art Unit
Attorney Docket No. 3425US (97.02947)

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check one)

1. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any over payments to:

Deposit Account Number 20-1469
Deposit Account Name TRASK, BRITT & ROSSA

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2. ☒ Payment Enclosed:
☒ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Other

FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
101 790	201 395	Utility filing fee	790
106 330	206 165	Design filing fee	
107 540	207 270	Plant filing fee	
108 790	208 395	Reissue filing fee	
114 150	214 75	Provisional filing fee	
SUBTOTAL (1)			(\$) 790

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES

Total Claims	Extra Claims	Fee from below	Fee Paid
54	20** = 34	22	748
Independent Claims	7 - 3** = 4	82	328
Multiple Dependent	0	0	0

**or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see below

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description
103 22	203 11	Claims in excess of 20
102 82	202 41	Independent claims in excess of 3
104 270	204 135	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
109 82	209 41	** Reissue independent claims over original patent
110 22	210 11	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent
SUBTOTAL (2) (\$) 1076		

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
105 130	205 65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
127 50	227 25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
139 130	139 130	Non-English specification	
147 2,520	147 2,520	For filing a request for reexamination	
112 920*	112 920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
113 1,840*	113 1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
115 110	215 55	Extension for reply within first month	
116 400	216 200	Extension for reply within second month	
117 950	217 475	Extension for reply within third month	
118 1,510	218 755	Extension for reply within fourth month	
128 2,060	228 1,030	Extension for reply within fifth month	
119 310	219 155	Notice of Appeal	
120 310	220 155	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
121 270	221 135	Request for oral hearing	
138 1,510	138 1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
140 110	240 55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
141 1,320	241 660	Petition to revive - unintentional	
142 1,320	242 660	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
143 450	243 225	Design issue fee	
144 670	244 335	Plant issue fee	
122 130	122 130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
123 50	123 50	Petitions related to provisional applications	
126 240	126 240	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
581 40	581 40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
146 790	246 395	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a))	
149 790	249 395	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b))	

Other fee (specify) _____

Other fee (specify) _____

* Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$)

SUBMITTED BY

Typed or Printed Name Joseph A. Walkowski

Signature

Date 06/17/98

Complete (if applicable)

Reg. Number 28,765

Deposit Account User ID

NOTICE OF EXPRESS MAILING

Express Mail Mailing Label Number: EM175209223US

Date of Deposit with USPS: June 17, 1998

Person making Deposit: Timothy W. Ricks

APPLICATION FOR LETTERS PATENT

for

**SPEAKER APPARATUS AND A COMPUTER
SYSTEM INCORPORATING SAME**

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SPEAKER APPARATUS AND A COMPUTER SYSTEM INCORPORATING SAME

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates generally to speaker systems for use with computer systems and, more particularly, to a woofer/subwoofer speaker apparatus contained within a computer housing. More particularly still, the present invention relates to a speaker assembly that, during manufacture, is quickly and easily placed within a computer housing, that occupies a limited volume and that is universally designed so as
10 to be adaptable in various orientations.

 Audio speaker systems are well known in the art. Speaker systems have evolved from a single monaural speaker to multiple speakers that produce stereo sound that is more realistic sounding to the typical listener. Each speaker unit in a stereo speaker system typically comprises a plurality of speakers drivers within a single
15 enclosure. The speaker unit typically uses two to three speakers, or more, with one speaker reproducing upper frequencies and another speaker reproducing lower frequencies. A third speaker sometimes is added to reproduce the lowest frequencies desired.

 Recently, however, the trend has been to utilize multiple channels, which has
20 led to using separate enclosures for each speaker. This allows the speaker system to have smaller components with the ability to place the speakers in discrete locations otherwise not possible with the larger enclosures typically used in previous speaker designs. Additionally, the woofer/subwoofer unit in the satellite speaker systems typically only produces a monaural tone as well and thus a second, matching stereo
25 speaker is not necessary. With this in mind, speaker designers have attempted to optimize the acoustics reproduction of small enclosed subwoofer designs in order to save on space or to locate this speaker unit in less conspicuous locations.

 Another advance in subwoofer speaker design that has decreased the overall unit size is the utilization of ported chambers. The ported chambers also enhance the sound
30 quality of the speaker system, as well as increase the speaker's responsiveness without

adding to, or in some instances by even minimizing, the inherent distortion of the speaker. One design for a ported speaker system is shown in U.S. Patent No. 5,623,132 issued April 22, 1997, entitled "Module Port Tuning Kit." This reference discloses the concept of adding a modular port to a speaker enclosure to enhance the responsiveness and accuracy of the speaker itself. A more complicated enclosure system is disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,147,986, issued September 15, 1992, entitled "Subwoofer Speaker System." This patent discloses a subwoofer system that divides the enclosure into at least three chambers. Each chamber is tuned and acoustically coupled, one to another, so as to optimize speaker responsiveness while minimizing the enclosure volume. Both of these patents disclose what would be excellent speaker designs for designing and implementing a subwoofer speaker assembly that stands alone.

The use of speaker systems has expanded from that of reproducing sound in a stereo system to reproducing a rich, sonorous environment of surround sound in multi-media systems that include video replay in television and personal computer systems. It is in the computer multi-media system that conventional speaker systems such as disclosed in the above-referenced patents, although useful, have several drawbacks. For one, both such speaker systems still require a separate enclosure that occupies a certain amount of space. In a multi-media computer system, one must include not only the CPU box of the computer system, but also the monitor, keyboard, pointing device, printer, and any auxiliary peripheral devices that take up valuable desk or floor real estate either at home or in the office. Adding multi-media capabilities to the computer system requires sound to be reproduced and, to reproduce stereo sound, at least two speakers are required, for a right and left channel. Early personal computer systems included a monaural single speaker that was mounted within the computer system and only provided amusing beeps and tones, but never could duplicate stereo sound or full, rich audio sound currently desired by today's users.

Accordingly, the same type of satellite speaker systems that have been used in both audio hi-fidelity systems and video systems with audio hi-fidelity have made their

way to the market of personal computers. These include a right channel speaker, left channel speaker, and a monaural subwoofer unit. This requires three new components to be placed on the already crowded desktop of the computer user. Some users have gone to free up desk space by placing the CPU box on the floor or in another out-of-the-way location. Such an approach is helpful in that additional desktop space is then available. Further, the user can place the subwoofer anywhere close, without it having to be optimally positioned as is required by the right or left speaker. This is since the subwoofer does not produce stereophonic sound, but merely enhances the audio experience by providing the lower frequencies. It is well known to speaker design engineers that a single subwoofer system is more than adequate for reproducing the low frequency end of the audio spectrum needed for full audio reproduction.

Placing the CPU box under the desk or moving it away from the desktop, as well as moving the subwoofer system off the desktop and in a inconspicuous place, are good approaches to provide additional desktop real estate. Unfortunately, they create additional clutter either under the desk or in the separate storage area where the two units must be provided. Additionally, in shipping systems with multiple speakers sets, a larger shipping box is necessary to accommodate the typically much larger subwoofer assembly than the two satellite speakers. This, in turn, incurs additional shipping costs as well as packing costs in terms of material and labor and time delays experienced in packing the unit.

Thus, what is needed is a satellite speaker system that overcomes the storage problems of the prior art by placing a subwoofer somewhere useful to the end user, and without taking up unnecessary space otherwise required by the user. This advantage would also overcome and reduce the costs of packing, shipping, and handling of an entire multi-media computer system. Further, such a subwoofer configuration should have the same acoustic benefits that ported subwoofer designs offer.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to the present invention, an internal subwoofer apparatus is provided that is placed within the central processing unit (CPU) box of a computer system. The computer system may be a multi-media personal computer system that is capable of providing visual and audio recording and playback. The CPU box typically includes the motherboard that houses the main central processing unit as well as any ancillary processing chips needed for the computer system. The CPU box may also include memory modules such as short term random access memory, long term disk storage memory in the form of hard disk drives or removable floppy disk drive systems, as well as long term hard disk storage units such as CD-ROM systems. User input to the computer system may be provided by a keyboard and, optionally, a pointing device, such as a mouse or track ball. A monitor that displays video signals viewable by the user may be provided and be connected to the CPU and driven by either the main central processing unit or by a separate video processor, such as a video card. An audio system may be provided that includes a pair of satellite speakers serving as a first channel and a second channel, typically known as the right and left channels, and further includes a subwoofer unit located in the CPU box. The CPU box can be oriented in a tower configuration or a desktop configuration.

The subwoofer unit is mounted in a lower front portion of the box, if it is a tower box, or in a front side portion, if it is a desktop box. The subwoofer is ported to enhance audio reproduction and to conserve space. The speaker may be mounted in a down-fire position, meaning that the front of the speaker is mounted downwardly against a vibration and sound absorbing mat, while the reflecting sound echos within the chamber and then is enhanced through the port that opens to the front of the computer system. A separate volume control and on/off switch can be provided on the exterior of the CPU so as to either activate or deactivate the subwoofer within the CPU box. The switch and the subwoofer are coupled to the motherboard or, alternatively, to an audio sound card installed within a computer system.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 is a diagram representing a computer system that has multi-media capabilities and incorporates a subwoofer apparatus within the central processing unit box;

5 FIG. 2 is a cut-away schematic side view of the CPU box of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a cut-away side view schematic diagram of the subwoofer apparatus of FIG. 2 shown in enlarged detail;

FIG. 4 depicts a side view schematic diagram of an alternative ported speaker system according to the present invention;

10 FIG. 5 depicts a connecting mechanism used to attach the subwoofer speakers enclosure shown in FIG. 3; and,

FIG. 6 depicts an alternative desktop CPU box incorporating the subwoofer apparatus according to the present invention.

15 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

As depicted in FIG. 1, a computer system 10 includes a central processing unit (CPU) box 12, which is attached to a user input device such as keyboard 14, and pointing device 16, an output device, such as monitor 18, and a pair of speakers 20. CPU box 10 further includes an integral woofer or subwoofer apparatus 22, found within unit 12 and including a port 36 (see FIG. 2). CPU box 12 is shown in further detail in FIG. 2. CPU box 10 is configured in a tower configuration, which means it stands substantially in a vertically upright orientation, as opposed to a desktop configuration, which means to be in a substantially horizontally prone orientation as shown in FIG. 6.

25 FIG. 2 is a cross-section schematic diagram of CPU box 12 from FIG. 1. Within CPU box 12 there is speaker apparatus 22, which is held in place via fasteners 24. Fasteners 24 can comprise any type of mechanical fastener or chemical fastener such as screws, nylon clips, metal clips, adhesive, or friction fitting. CPU box 12 further includes a drive bay 26 that holds additional peripheral devices such as a floppy

disk drive, one or more hard disk drives, a CD-ROM drive, and the like. Behind the drive bay 26 are a plurality of computer cards 28. Each card can perform a different function such as serving as a modem or a audio sound card, or a video card. Also within CPU box 12 is a motherboard that includes a central processing unit 30 that performs the bulk of the processing within the overall computer system. CPU 30 may be any conventional general purposing single-or multi-chip microprocessor such as a Pentium® Processor or a Pentium® Pro-processor, an 851 Processor, a MIPS® Processor, a Power PC® Processor, or an ALPHA® Processor. In addition, the microprocessor 30 may be any conventional special purpose microprocessor such as a digital signal processor, an audio signal processor, or a video graphics processor. As shown in FIG. 2, processor 30 is coupled to an audio subwoofer 22 and is further coupled to the devices installed in drive bay 26 and to the add-on cards 28.

Further included in CPU box 12 is subwoofer controller 32. Controller 32 is coupled to both subwoofer 22 and to CPU 30. Controller 32 may also be coupled to an audio sound card 28. Controller 32 activates subwoofer 22 when the computer 10 is on, thus supplying power to subwoofer 22. Additionally, controller 32 includes a volume control device that allows the user to adjust the volume to a desired level. Subwoofer apparatus 22 further includes a speaker 34. Speaker 34 is mounted against the bottom surface of the container used for subwoofer 22. Speaker 34 may range in diameter from three inches to as large as six inches, or more, depending on the size of the CPU box 12. The dimensions of woofer apparatus 22 are dictated by the size of CPU box 12. For a large box, woofer 22 can occupy a relatively larger volume. For a smaller box, woofer apparatus 22 would be sized accordingly.

In one embodiment, the interior dimensions of subwoofer 22 are five inches on all sides to form a five inch cube. The diameter of speaker 34 thus can be no greater than five inches. In this embodiment, it is desired that the speaker diameter be four inches.

To enhance the audio response of subwoofer apparatus 22 and keep its size compact, a port 36 is provided. Port 36 is adjusted so that it has a length of

substantially four-fifths the depth of the container for subwoofer 22 and a diameter of substantially one-fifth of the height of the container. Further, the port is placed at substantially one-fifth of the height of the top container portion and is centered across the front portion of the container. Thus, for a five inch cube container structure, port 36 will be four inches long with a diameter of substantially one inch and off-set substantially one inch from the top of the container for subwoofer 22. Additionally, the front portion of port 36 tapers outward to a diameter larger than the inner diameter of port 36. The second diameter is at a ratio of substantially 1.5:1 to the first diameter. In alternative embodiments, the container for subwoofer apparatus 22 may have a greater height, greater width, or greater depth. These dimensions are determined by the audio response desired by the speaker designer, as well as the space limitations found within the CPU box 12. For example, a container box that is seven inches high, six inches deep, and six inches in width, would allow for a larger speaker driver to be placed therein and a sound port having a larger volume because of the larger box dimensions.

FIG. 3 depicts an enlarged cross-sectional schematic diagram of subwoofer 22 found in FIG. 2. Subwoofer 22 includes two container units 42 and 44 that join together along the center line 48 (shown in ghosted form) to form a shell. The half shells formed by each of container units 42 and 44 make for quick and easy assembly. At least one or more speaker retaining elements 46 is located in each container unit 42, 44. These retaining elements 46 are designed so that speaker 34 can be quickly inserted into either container unit 42 or 44 and then assembly is completed upon the joining together of the two container units 42, 44 to form a shell. Retaining elements 46 can include any type of mechanical retainer such as, for example, spring clips, of metal or plastic, molded bridges or recesses that conform to the edge of speaker 34, or foam gaskets that wedge in place and provide additional sound dampening.

Once container units 42 and 44 are mated, a plurality of speaker fasteners 24 are inserted into subwoofer apparatus 22. A fastener 24 is inserted in each corner to secure speaker 34 in place as well as to hold units 42 and 44 together. Speaker 34 is

electrically connected to connector 40 that provides connection to the CPU located in CPU box 12. Speaker 34 is placed on motion and sound dampener 38. Motion and sound dampener 38 is made of a desired dampening material suitable for use in an acoustical speaker assembly. This can include a flexible rubber mat, a neoprene mat, or a fiberglass liner. Motion and sound dampener 38 serves to isolate speaker 34 from the vibrations encountered within CPU box 12 as well as to dampen any acoustic vibration caused by the speaker within the box and lessen interference in the performance of subwoofer 22. Additional acoustic dampening material may be lined within subwoofer 22 as desired.

FIG. 4 depicts a cross-sectional schematic diagram of an alternative embodiment of subwoofer 22. Subwoofer apparatus 22a includes a speaker 34 that is mounted in a direct facing position aligned with port 36. Behind speaker 34 is placed a sound dampening or acoustic vibration dampening material 38. This direct fire embodiment of FIG. 4 is designed such that port 36 is again designed to have a diameter one-fifth of that overall container of subwoofer 22a. The length of port 36 is 40% of the width of the container used for subwoofer 22a. In one embodiment, port 36 is centered in the subwoofer 22a, but can be moved up or down, or left or right as desired for acoustic optimization.

FIG. 5 depicts a view of separated containers 42 and 44 previously shown in FIGs. 3 and 4. They are self-aligned together and held in place with a friction alignment element 50. FIG. 6 depicts an alternative embodiment of the CPU box. In FIG. 6, a desktop box 112 has a speaker port 36 mounted to one side with disk drives 126 mounted in another side. A speaker controller switch 132 is also provided on this front of the CPU box 112. Subwoofers 22 and 22a have a universal design that allows it to be placed in either an upright or tower CPU box 12 of FIG. 1, or in a prone or desktop CPU box 112 as shown in FIG. 6. The only difference is that retaining elements 24 would secure the bottom of CPU box 112 from underneath in the embodiment of FIG. 6.

As will be apparent to those skilled in the art, number of variations
modifications of the described invention can also be used. Port shapes other than the
round port thus depicted can be used, such as oval, elliptical, parabolic, square,
rectangular, and other polygonal shapes. A single port can be replaced by two or more
5 smaller ports. The subwoofer assembly can employ more than one speaker as well as
more than one chamber. The absolute and relative sizes of the chambers, or
enclosures, can be adjusted, particularly as needed to adjust the frequency response in
coordination with the characteristics of other speakers, such as the midrange or tweeter
speakers that are found in the satellite pair of speakers 20. Although standard conical
10 speakers are depicted, other shapes of speakers can be used, such as parabolic, oval,
elliptical, planar, and the like.

When speaker apparatus 22 is used as a subwoofer speaker, a low frequency bi-
pass circuit is provided that cuts off signals having a frequency greater than about 100-
120 hertz. A typical bypass filter is a resistor-capacitor circuit that is tuned to allow
15 signal frequencies of 100-120 hertz or lower to pass to speaker element 34. If speaker
apparatus 34 is to also reproduce higher frequencies, then a higher bypass filter would
be required. Typically, in such an instance, the cut off level would be at 200 Hertz and
above. Thus, the RC circuit would be tuned to pass frequencies at 200 Hertz or below
for output on speaker 34. It is, of course, understood that the cut off should not be
20 taken as limited to 100 or 200 Hz, but may extend to a higher frequency as desired.

Although the invention has been described by a way of preferred embodiment
and various modifications and variations, other modifications and variations can also be
used within the scope of the invention, the invention being defined by the appended
claims and equivalence thereof.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A speaker apparatus installable within a computer housing for generating low frequency sounds, comprising:

- 5 a speaker container;
a speaker removably retained within said container;
a speaker port coupled to said container to provide acoustic coupling between said speaker and a region outside said container and said computer housing.

- 10 2. The speaker apparatus according to Claim 1 further comprising at least one fastener to couple said speaker to said container.

3. The speaker apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said container further comprises:

- 15 a first unit having a speaker retainer; and
a second unit, substantially similar to said first unit, further having a speaker retainer, said first container unit and said second container unit being configured to mate in such a fashion as to securely retain said speaker within said container.

- 20 4. The speaker apparatus according to Claim 1 further comprising an acoustic dampening element mounted to an interior surface of said speaker container.

5. The speaker apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said speaker is mounted to an interior surface of said speaker container.

- 25 6. The speaker apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said container comprises a front wall, a back wall, a top wall, a bottom wall, a first side wall, and a second side wall, each wall having the same area.

7. The speaker apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said port has a length that is $\frac{4}{5}$ the depth of said container and a diameter that is $\frac{1}{5}$ the height of said container.

5 8. The speaker apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said speaker is mounted behind a port formed within said container.

9. A computer system comprising:

a central processing unit (CPU) box, comprising:

10 a central processing unit;

a drive bay coupled to said central processing unit;

a speaker apparatus, coupled to said central processing unit and removably mounted towards a front portion of said CPU box; comprising:

a speaker container;

15 a speaker removably retained within said container;

a speaker port coupled to said container to provide acoustic coupling between said speaker and a region outside said container;

a user input device, coupled to said central processing unit; and

an output device, coupled to said central processing unit.

20

10. The computer system according to Claim 9 wherein said container further comprises:

a first unit having a speaker retainer; and

a second unit, substantially similar to said first unit, further having a speaker retainer,

25 said first container unit and said second unit mate in such a fashion as to securely retain said speaker within said container.

11. The computer system according to Claim 9 further comprising an acoustic dampening element placed on an interior surface of said container.

12. The computer system according to Claim 9 wherein said speaker is mounted to face an interior surface of said container.

5 13. The computer system according to Claim 9 wherein said container comprises a front wall, a back wall, a top wall, a bottom wall, a side wall, and a second side wall, each wall having the same area.

10 14. The computer system according to Claim 9 wherein said port has a length that is $\frac{4}{5}$ the depth of said container and a diameter that is $\frac{1}{5}$ the height of said container.

15 15. The computer system according to Claim 9 wherein said speaker is mounted behind a port formed within said container.

16 16. The computer system according to Claim 9 further comprising at least one fastener to couple said speaker to said container and said container to said CPU box.

20 17. A speaker apparatus installable within a computer housing for generating low frequency sounds, comprising:
a speaker container having a top, back, front, bottom, and two side interior portions;
a speaker removably retained within said container, said speaker facing said bottom portion;
a speaker port formed in said front interior portion of said container to provide acoustic
25 coupling between said speaker and a region outside said speaker container and said computer housing.

18. The speaker apparatus according to Claim 17 further comprising at least one fastener to couple said speaker to said container.

19. The speaker apparatus according to Claim 17 wherein said container further comprises:
a first unit having a speaker retainer; and
a second unit, substantially similar to said first unit, further having a speaker retainer,
5 said first container unit and said second container unit being configured to mate in such a fashion as to securely retain said speaker within said container.

20. The speaker apparatus according to Claim 17 further comprising an acoustic dampening element mounted to an interior surface of said speaker container.

21. The speaker apparatus according to Claim 17 wherein said speaker is mounted to an interior surface of said speaker container.

22. The speaker apparatus according to Claim 17 wherein said container comprises a front wall, a back wall, a top wall, a bottom wall, a first side wall, and a second side wall, each wall having the same area.

23. The speaker apparatus according to Claim 17 wherein said port has a length that is $\frac{4}{5}$ the depth of said container and a diameter that is $\frac{1}{5}$ the height of said container.

24. A speaker apparatus installable within a computer housing for generating low frequency sounds, comprising:
a speaker container having a back and front interior portions;
25 a speaker removably retained within said container, said speaker facing said front portion of said speaker container;
a speaker port coupled to said front portion of said speaker container to provide acoustic coupling between said speaker and a region outside said container and said computer housing.

25. The speaker apparatus according to Claim 24 further comprising at least one fastener to couple said speaker to said container.

5 26. The speaker apparatus according to Claim 24 wherein said container further comprises:
a first unit having a speaker retainer; and
a second unit, substantially similar to said first unit, further having a speaker retainer,
said first container unit and said second container unit being configured to mate
in such a fashion as to securely retain said speaker within said container.

10

27. The speaker apparatus according to Claim 24 further comprising an acoustic dampening element mounted to said back interior portion of said speaker container.

15

28. The speaker apparatus according to Claim 24 wherein said speaker is mounted to an interior surface of said speaker container.

20

29. The speaker apparatus according to Claim 24 wherein said container comprises a front wall, a back wall, a top wall, a bottom wall, a first side wall, and a second side wall, each wall having the same area.

25

30. The speaker apparatus according to Claim 24 wherein said port has a length that is $\frac{4}{5}$ the depth of said container and a diameter that is $\frac{1}{5}$ the height of said container.

31. A computer system comprising:
a central processing unit (CPU) box configured in a tower configuration, comprising:
a central processing unit;
a drive bay coupled to said central processing unit;
5 a speaker apparatus, coupled to said central processing unit and removably
mounted towards a front, bottom portion of said CPU box; comprising:
a speaker container;
a speaker removably retained within said container;
a speaker port coupled to said container to provide acoustic coupling
10 between said speaker and a region outside said container;
a user input device, coupled to said central processing unit; and
an output device, coupled to said central processing unit.

32. The computer system according to Claim 31 wherein said container
15 further comprises:
a first unit having a speaker retainer; and
a second unit, substantially similar to said first unit, further having a speaker retainer,
said first container unit and said second unit mating in such a fashion as to
securely retain said speaker within said container.

33. The computer system according to Claim 31 further comprising an
20 acoustic dampening element placed on an interior surface of said container.

34. The computer system according to Claim 31 wherein said speaker is
25 mounted to face an interior surface of said container.

35. The computer system according to Claim 31 wherein said container
comprises a front wall, a back wall, a top wall, a bottom wall, a side wall, and a
second side wall, each wall having the same area.

36. The computer system according to Claim 31 wherein said port has a length that is $\frac{4}{5}$ the depth of said container and a diameter that is $\frac{1}{5}$ the height of said container.

5 37. The computer system according to Claim 31 wherein said speaker is mounted behind a port formed within said container.

10 38. The computer system according to Claim 31 further comprising a at least one fastener to couple said speaker to said container and said container to said CPU box.

15 39. A computer system comprising:
a central processing unit (CPU) box configured in a desktop configuration, comprising:
a central processing unit;
a drive bay coupled to said central processing unit;
a speaker apparatus, coupled to said central processing unit and removably
mounted towards a front side portion of said CPU box; comprising:
a speaker container;
a speaker removably retained within said container;
20 a speaker port coupled to said container to provide acoustic coupling
between said speaker and a region outside said container;
a user input device, coupled to said central processing unit; and
an output device, coupled to said central processing unit.

25 40. The computer system according to Claim 39 wherein said container further comprises:
a first unit having a speaker retainer; and

a second unit, substantially similar to said first unit, further having a speaker retainer, said first container unit and said second unit mating in such a fashion as to securely retain said speaker within said container.

5 41. The computer system according to Claim 39 further comprising an acoustic dampening element placed on an interior surface of said container.

 42. The computer system according to Claim 39 wherein said speaker is mounted to face an interior surface of said container.

10

 43. The computer system according to Claim 39 wherein said container comprises a front wall, a back wall, a top wall, a bottom wall, a side wall, and a second side wall, each wall having the same area.

15

 44. The computer system according to Claim 39 wherein said port has a length that is $\frac{4}{5}$ the depth of said container and a diameter that is $\frac{1}{4}$ the length of said container.

20

 45. The computer system according to Claim 39 wherein said speaker is mounted behind a port formed within said container.

25

 46. The computer system according to Claim 39 further comprising a at least one fastener to couple said speaker to said container and said container to said CPU box.

47. A method of assembling a computer system comprising:
providing an enclosure to contain said computer system;
securedly inserting a motherboard having a central processing unit within said enclosure;

5 securedly inserting at least one supplemental device within said enclosure and coupling said supplemental device to said motherboard;
 securedly inserting a speaker module within said enclosure and coupling said supplemental device to said motherboard.

10 48. The method of assembling a computer system according to claim 47 wherein said speaker module inserting step comprises:

 selecting a first half of a speaker enclosure;
 placing a speaker within said first half of said speaker enclosure;
 mating a second half of a speaker enclosure to said first half of said speaker enclosure for form said speaker module; and
15 securing said speaker module within said enclosure via a fastener.

49. The method of assembling a computer system according to claim 48 wherein said speaker module inserting step comprises:

20 placing said speaker module in a lower front portion of said enclosure wherein said enclosure is a tower computer case.

50. The method of assembling a computer system according to claim 48 wherein said speaker module inserting step comprises:

25 placing said speaker module in a front side portion of said enclosure wherein said enclosure is a desktop computer case.

51. The method of assembling a computer system according to claim 48 wherein said placing said speaker step further comprises orienting said speaker to be downward firing.

5 52. The method of assembling a computer system according to claim 48 wherein said placing said speaker step further comprises orienting said speaker to be forward firing.

10 53. The method of assembling a computer system according to claim 48 wherein said placing said speaker step comprises placing a sound dampening element within said speaker module.

15 54. The method of assembling a computer system according to claim 48 further comprising a port within said speaker module.

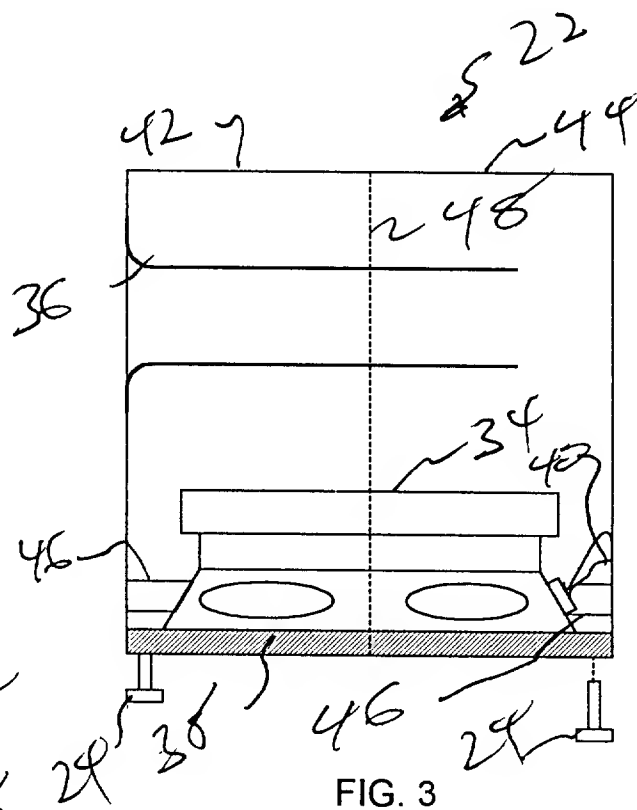
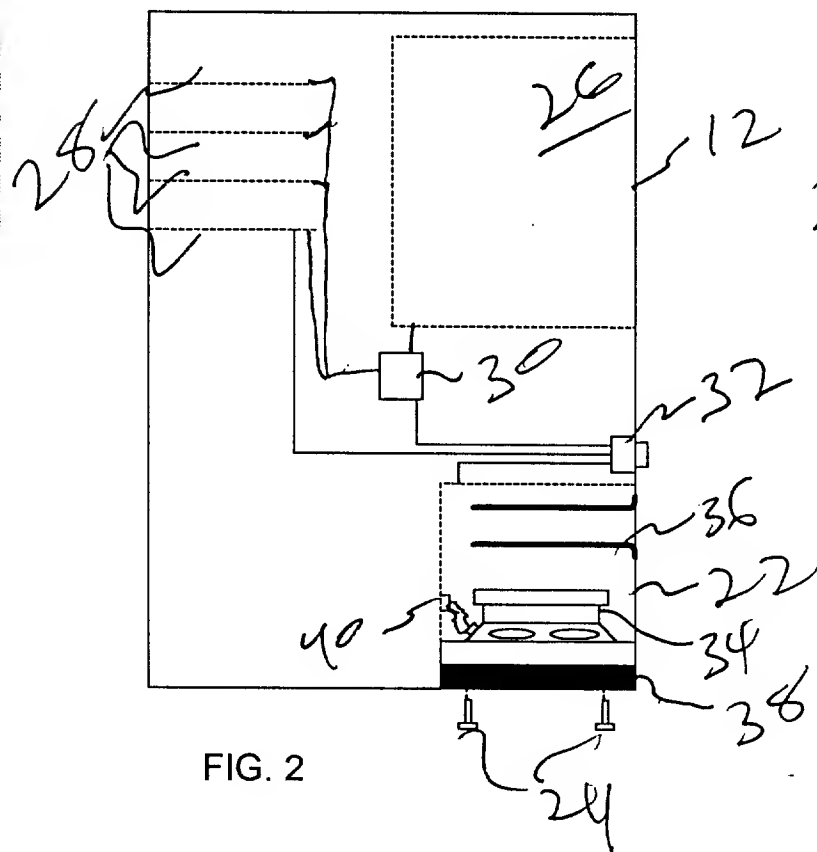
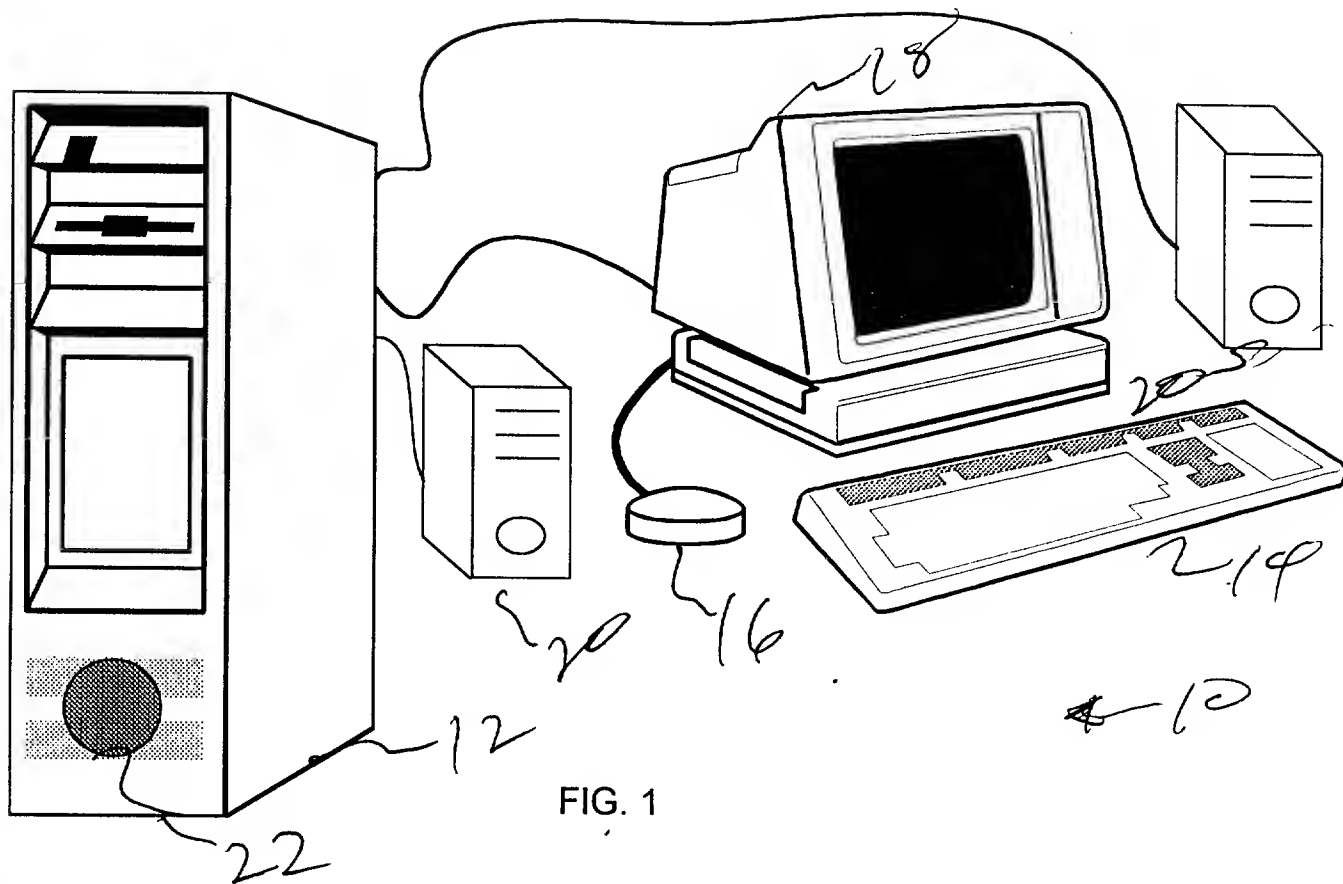
SPEAKER APPARATUS AND A COMPUTER SYSTEM INCORPORATING SAME

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 An internal subwoofer apparatus is provided for mounting within a computer system. The computer system is a multi-media computer system that processes visual and audio recording and playback. The central processing unit box typically includes the motherboard on which is mounted the main central processing unit as well as any ancillary processing chips needed for the computer system. The computer system also
10 includes memory modules such as short term memory, long term memory storage in the form of hard disk drives or removable floppy disks drive systems, as well as long term disk storage systems, such as CD-ROM systems. User input to the computer system is provided by either a keyboard and optionally a pointing device, such as a mouse or track ball. A monitor that displays video signals is provided in addition to
15 the internal subwoofer apparatus, the audio system includes a pair of satellite speakers serving as a first channel and a second channel.

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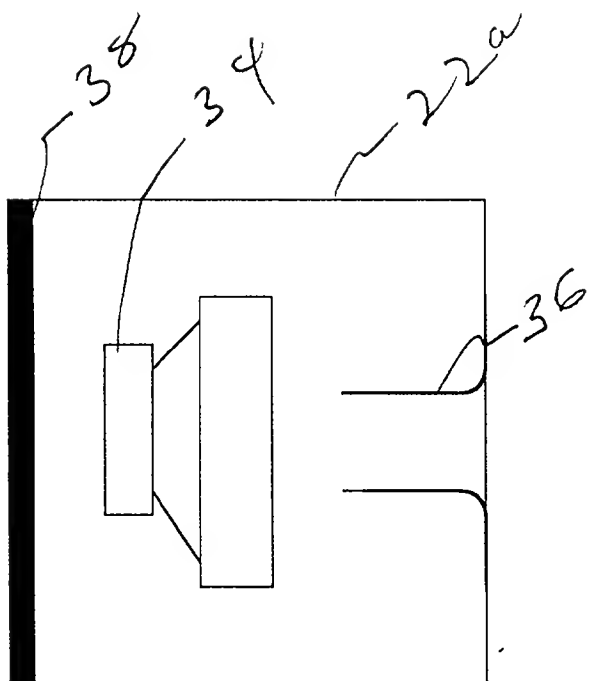


FIG. 4

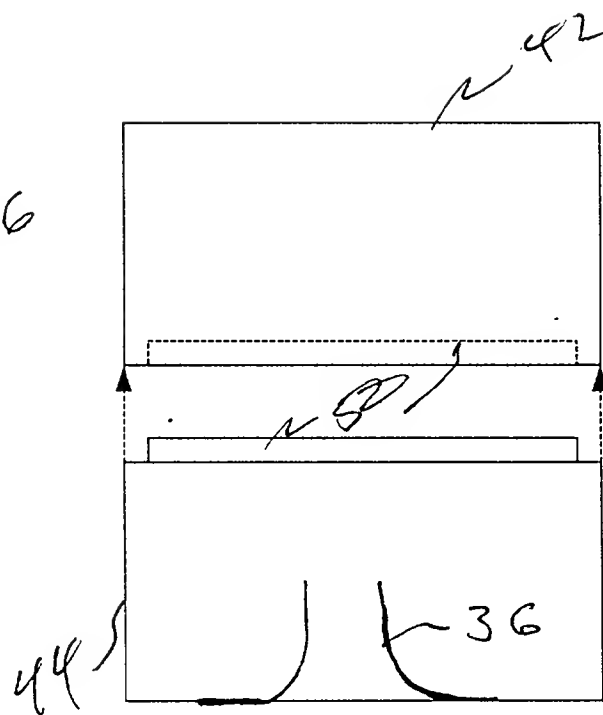


FIG. 5

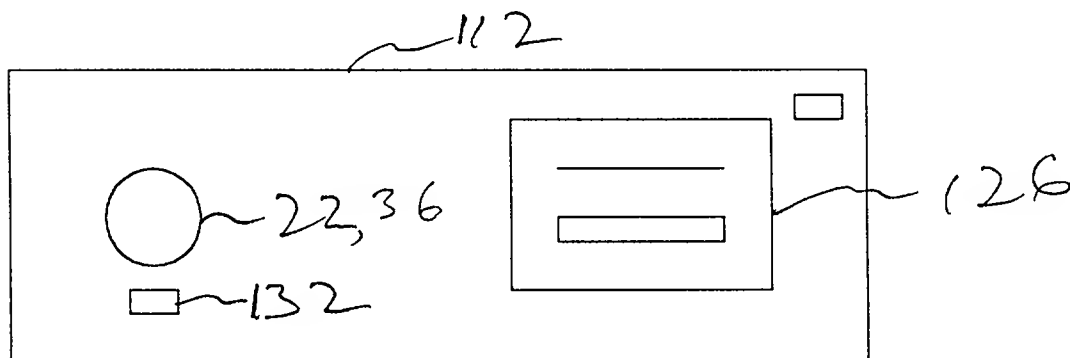


FIG. 6

DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION (WITH POWER OF ATTORNEY)

As an inventor named below or on any attached continuation page, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **SPEAKER APPARATUS AND A COMPUTER SYSTEM INCORPORATING SAME**, the specification of which (check one):

☒ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on _____ as United States application serial no. _____ and was amended on _____.

☐ was filed on _____ as PCT international application no. _____ and was amended under PCT Article 19 on _____.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to the patentability of the subject matter claimed in this application, as "materiality" is defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 (a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or § 365(a) of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and on any attached continuation page and have also identified below and on any attached continuation page any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America having a filing date before that of the application(s) on which priority is claimed

Prior foreign/PCT application(s):

Priority Claimed

(number)	(country)	(day/month/year filed)	Yes	No
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
(number)	(country)	(day/month/year filed)	Yes	No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) or § 365(e) of PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America listed below and on any attached continuation page and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in any such prior application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of such prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(application serial no.)	(filing date)	(status - pending, patented or abandoned)
_____	_____	_____
(application serial no.)	(filing date)	(status - pending, patented or abandoned)
_____	_____	_____

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

(provisional application no.)	(filing date)
_____	_____
(provisional application no.)	(filing date)
_____	_____
(provisional application no.)	(filing date)
_____	_____

I hereby appoint the following Registered Practitioners to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon

Full name of sole inventor: Jeffrey A. Bull

Inventor's signature _____ Date _____

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